

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /054 W

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R 100949Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2580

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 17521

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LY, RP

SUBJECT: MRS. MARCOS MISSION TO LIBYA

REF: (A) TRIPOLI 1419; (B) MANILA 17421; (C) MANILA 17207

1. DURING NOV 7 AIRPORT FAREWELL CEREMONY FOR MRS. ANWAR SADAT, MRS. MARCOS WAS ASKED ABOUT HER UPCOMING VISIT TO LIBYA AND SPECIFICALLY WHETHER SHE PLANNED TO CONFER WITH MNLF. SHE REPLIED: " SURE. WHY NOT? IF THEY WANT TO SEE ME." MRS. MARCOS THEN EXPRESSED HOPE SUCH MEETING WOULD LEAD TO BETTER UNDERSTANDING AND CONTRIBUTE TO SOLUTION OF MINDANAO PROBLEM. MRS. MARCOS' COMMENTS TO PRESS CAME FEW MINUTES AFTER ALBOR SECRETARY OPLE HAD TOLD SAME REPORTERS MRS. MARCOS WOULD BE VISITING LIBYA SOLELY AS HEAD OF ECONOMIC AND TRADE DELEGATION AND THAT PEACE TALKS ENTIRELY SEPARATE MATTER.

2. IT IS UNCLEAR HOW MRS. MARCOS TALKS WITH MNLF WIL INTERPHASE WITH BARBERO MISSION DESCRIBED BY ADMIRAL ESPALDON NOV 4 (SEE REFTTEL C), BUT PRESUMABLY SHE WILL TEST WATER FOR PANEL AND BE GIVEN CREDIT FOR WHATEVER  
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SUCCESS PANEL IS ABLE TO ACHIEVE. WE HEAR PANEL TALKS

WILL NOW TAKE PLACE AT END OF NOVEMBER.

3. NOW THAT MRS. MARCOS "ECONOMIC MISSION" HAS BEEN BROADENED TO INCLUDE DISCUSSIONS WITH MNLF, GUIDED PRESS IS GIVING IT USUAL TREATMENT. IN NOV 10 TIMES JOURNAL ERNESTO GRANADA WRITES THAT NEGOTIATING WITH MUSLIM REBEL LEADERS IN THEIR BASE IN TRIPOLI IS "ACTUALLY BEARDING THE LION IN HIS DEN. AND IT REQUIRES NOT ONLY PATIENT DIPLOMACY, BUT A LOT OF COURAGE." GRANADA NOTES, HOPEFULLY, THAT COLONEL KHADDAFI "ADMIRE COURAGE. AND HE OBVIOUSLY WILL BE THE FIRST TO APPRECIATE THE FIRST LADY'S VISIT."

4. AS REFTTEL B INDICATED, MRS. MARCOS IS CLEARLY EXHILARATED BY HER UPCOMING MISSION. CARMEN GUERRERO NAKPIL, MRS. MARCOS INTELLECTUAL LADY IN WAITING, RECENTLY DETAILED HER MISTRESS "FASCINATION" WITH KHADDAFI'S INCORRUPTIBILITY WHEN SHE EXPLAINED THAT MRS. MARCOS WAS AMAZED THAT DESPITE ALL THE OIL REVENUES KHADDAFI DIDN'T TAKE ANYTHING FOR HIMSELF.

5. COMMENT: IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER MRS. MARCOS WILL BE ABLE TO WORK HER WILES ON THE ASCETIC LIBYAN COLONEL, NOT TO MENTION THE MNLF LEADERSHIP, BUT SHE WILL CERTAINLY GIVE IT THE COLLEGE TRY. POTENTIALLY, THIS IS MRS. MARCOS MOST SIGNIFICANT FOREIGN AFFAIRS MISSION SINCE HER ADVANCE TRIP TO CHANA IN 1974 AND TRIP TO CUBA IN 1975. IN 1976 SHE HAS BEEN PRETTY MUCH HER HUSBAND'S DUTIFUL HELPMATE AND TRAVELING COMPANION. SULLIVAN

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